

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EURE-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4353

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

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OSLO FOR EUR/SE DIRECTOR EAGLETON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TU GR

SUBJ: DEMIREL LETTER TO CARAMANLIS

REF ANKARA 3943

1. TO VIMA (LIBERAL, OPPOSITION) ALONG OF THE MAY 19 ATHENS MORNING NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED A REPORT ON PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL'S LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS (REFTEL). TO VIMA PRESENTED IT AS ITS PRINCIPAL FRONT PAGE STORY, ASSERTING IN ITS HEADLINE THAT THE DEMIREL MESSAGE CONSTITUTES A REPLY TO THE DEMARCHE WHICH GREEK AMBASSADOR COSMODOPOULOS HAD MADE IN ANKARA ON MAY 1 IN CONNECTION WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' PROPOSAL FOR A NON-AGGRESSION PACT.

2. THE TO VIMA PIECE STATES THAT IN HIS MESSAGE DEMIREL ASKS FOR CLARIFICATIONS CONCERNING THE CARAMANLIS
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PROPOSAL FOR A NON-AGGRESSION PACT. IT INDICATES,

HOWEVER, THAT THE MESSAGE IS NOT LIMITED TO THIS SUBJECT BUT COVERS AS WELL ISSUE RELATED TO THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS (INCLUDING, APPARENTLY, CYPRUS, IT ADDS). TO VIMA RECALLS THAT SOON AFTER PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' INITIAL PROPOSAL FOR A NON-AGGRESSION PACT, DEMIREL HAD WONDERED PUBLICLY HOW IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE SUCH AN AGREEMENT PRIOR TO SETTling OTHER BILATERAL MATTERS IN DISPUTE.

3. ON THE PACT PROPOSAL ITSELF, TO VIMA RECALLED THAT THE INITIAL TURKISH REACTIONS WERE "NOT FAVORABLE", AND POINTED OUT THAT WHEN AMBASSADOR COSMODOPOULOS OFFERED TO MAKE AVAILABLE FURTHER DETAILS ON THE PROPOSAL, DEMIREL REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT THEM BECAUSE HE CONSIDERED THEM "PURPOSELESS". THE REPORT ALSO NOTES THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS HIMSELF RECENTLY CHARACTERIZED THE TURKISH REACTION AS "LUKEWARM".

4. FINALLY, TO VIMA DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE OSLO MEETING THIS WEEK AT WHICH FOREIGN MINISTERS BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL ARE EXPECTED TO MEET FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. THE ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT THESE TALKS MAY BE THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF CONTACTS AIMING AT THE RESOLUTION OF SUCH PROBLEMS AS CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN. TO VIMA ASSERTS THAT THIS VIEW IS ALSO HELD BY "DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES" IN ANKARA WHO STRESS THAT SUCH A MEETING COULD PREPARE THE GROUND FOR A SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTERS CARAMANLIS AND DEMIREL.

5. ALL AFTERNOON PAPERS TOOK NOTE OF THE DEMIREL MESSAGE STORY, FOR THE MOST PART WEAVING IT IN A CONDENSED FORM INTO THEIR BROADER REPORTS ABOUT THE OSLO MEETING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. TA NEA (LEFTIST), HOWEVER, GAVE IT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN A SIMILAR FASHION AS HAD ITS SISTER MORNING PAPER TO VIMA AND ATHINAIKI (PRO-PAPANDREOU, PASOK), ALSO CARRIED A SEPARATE REPORT ON THE STORY.

6. THE MFA OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF TURKISH AFFAIRS HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFIRMED TO AN EMBOFF THAT A LENGTHY MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM DEMIREL BUT SAID HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON IT AS YET BECAUSE IT IS STILL UNDER STUDY. KUBISCH

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